

Vinyl 2010 Essay Competition Submission Template

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Summary:

"Faced with today's food and energy crisis, how can society improve its well-being?"

- Background/Introduction to the problem on ground. Discussion of overdependence of food production on energy availability.
- Proffering solutions through diagnostic analysis of root causes of the problem: Societal value is seen as major cause of the imbalance in food and energy in the world which resulted to idea of biofuels, untamed numbers of automobiles, and lack of international cooperation.
Lack of good strategies and policies by the government to cope with the teaming population of the world
Recommendation of solutions to food crisis
Conclusion

Essay:

It may interest one to start the discussion of this phenomenal topic with the frivolous definition of what I was taught ten years ago - photosynthesis. It is the process of producing food and energy (while oxygen is seen as the by-product) through combination of carbon dioxide and water vapour using energy trapped from sunlight through chlorophyll. This justifies the interrelationship between the keywords in the topic: "energy" and "food". One's mind may begin to wonder the type of energy referred to here. Though energy is the ability to do work, yet in this context, emphasis is laid on the source of energy such as fuel, which burns (combines with oxygen) to produce energy with other unwanted elements or substances such as carbon dioxide and water vapour. Very good examples are chemical and electrical energy. Further examples are petroleum products and electricity respectively. Petroleum products (also referred to as hydrocarbon) such as petrol, diesel and gasoline are fuels that could further be refined or used as sources of energy. It is a known fact that high price of oil implies high cost of

energy. For example, oil is used to fuel almost all industrial machines, part of which is turbine that is used for production of electricity

Of course, there are different schools of thoughts to this question. Majority are of the opinion that the food shortage in our society is due to limit-stretching on the demand of petroleum product or may be hike in its (fuel) price as earlier stated. This may relatively be true since many countries like China and Japan are now involved in the manufacture of automobiles, thus “saturating” the world with petrol hungry (driven) machines! In order to cope with its (energy) throat-piercing price, most non-producing developed countries have diverted one-quarter production of cereals to growing of biofuel crops. This attacks our value as a united world. But is this not a crime to humanity? , leaving the masses with heritage of hunger and malnourishment. It would therefore be wise if the society (legislators) can put a stop to this act and embrace cheap means of producing energy such as nuclear fission.

Furthermore, the presence of these “untamed” numbers of automobiles produces carbon dioxide and many other harmful substances (exhaust) into the atmosphere, which consequentially depletes the ozone layer. Of a truth, the state of this ozone layer determines our world of protection against wild radiation, which determines atmospheric weather condition for plants (food) germination. Based on this available fact, controlled measures should be applied to the number of automobiles released to the world market. Public amenities could be used rather than countless individual climatic hazard machines. With this, favorable climatic condition shall be assured for mass production of food crops for human consumption. Adjacent to this is the teaming population of man with no adequate plan or strategies from our government to cope with; leading to a number of global problems. Population census or demography studies are meant for the government of each country to project infrastructure development (food and energy included) needed at the rate of their human growth. Reliable and detailed data on the size, structure, distribution and socio-economic and demographic characteristics of a country’s population is required for planning, policy intervention and monitoring of development goals. So the implementation of findings and advice given by the population census committee is urgent to the present food and energy crisis.

Lack of international cooperation is another cause of the present world predicament; which could be looked upon. Politicians across the world are not interested in the global stabilization but rather in their own nationals. Some, even for their selfish interest oppress their citizenry. A very archetypal example of the former is the Zimbabwe's case - a situation that the country is dying of cholera and hunger, and yet its government is preventing the international interventions (salvage) due untamed passion of the latter for power. To this extent, a regulatory body either as arm of united nation is needed to supervise issues such as oil price, foreign exchange policies and citizenry well-being. Dialogue should not only be the means to deal with issues such as Zimbabwe's; rather stiff sanctions and force should be resorted to.

Closely associated to this is global financial recession experienced by countries of the world. The unpalatable effect of this on developing countries is the stop put to release of fund for agriculture to the latter from developed countries due to this economic depression.

To the side of food shortage, a clear boundary definition for rural immigration should be stated in order to prevent encroachment into the landmass meant for agriculture. Loans (funds) should be made available for farmers to grow crops beyond subsistence mode. This could be achieved by mandating all financial institutions a quota of their business transaction to be allocated for agriculture since most banks prefer to engage in instant-money producing businesses, rather than providing aids for farming. Proper orientation and educative programs could be organized for farmers with good storage facilities. Here, essence of machinery for ease and mass production could be taught. In the same vein, fertilizers, if well distributed could go a long way in alleviating this acute food shortage. Lastly, the importance of good road to transport agricultural products to market or storage is not an overstatement as it determines the prices of most products.

Yes, the way out for society improving its well-being is closer with the above diagnostic approach to the situation. What more could be said than the implementation of the above suggested ways? Our natural world of climatic condition is dependent on our caution, which (climate) in turns determines agricultural produce. The latter also solely rely on energy availability. Therefore one could conclude that energy is the

solution to the food problem; and adequate planning and strategies for the former.
Everything exists together in a delicate balance. And the understanding of the balance is
the essence of the write-up!